



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

HIGHLIGHTS

Cattle and Calves Inventory
Grazing Fee Rates
Sheep & Lamb Inventory and
Wool Production
Ag Pries Received
Farms & Land in Farms
Number of Livestock Operations
Egg Production

January 1, 2007 Cattle and Calf Inventory

Montana's January 1, 2007 inventory of cattle and calves was 2.40 million head, unchanged from the 2006 inventory. The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2007 was down 3 percent from a year ago to 1.38 million head. The number of milk cows was down 5 percent from a year ago to 18,000 head.

Beef heifer replacements weighing 500 pounds or more were down 1 percent from 2006 to 440,000 head. Milk heifer replacements increased 2,000 head from last year to 10,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more increased 15 percent from last year to 180,000 head.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 pounds or more was up 33 percent from 2006 to 240,000 head. The inventory of calves weighing less than 500 pounds, at 40,000 head, was down 20 percent from last year to set a new record low inventory. Inventory of bulls weighing 500 pounds or more was down 18 percent to 90,000 head.

The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter, at 55,000 head, was unchanged from a year ago. There were 1.45 million calves born during 2006, down 1 percent from the previous year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2007, totaled 97.0 million head, slightly above the 96.7 million on January 1, 2006. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.0 million, were down slightly from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 32.9 million, were down slightly from January 1, 2006. Milk cows, at 9.13 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2007, and the change from January 1, 2006, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.1 million, up 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.88 million, down slightly.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.31 million, up 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 9.90 million, up 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 2 percent.

- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, down 2 percent.

- Calves under 500 pounds, 15.5 million, down slightly.

- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up 1 percent.

- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 28.3 million, up 1 percent.

The 2006 U.S. calf crop was estimated at 37.6 million head, down slightly from 2005. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2005.

2006 Grazing Fee Rates

Grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land was mixed for all methods in 2006. The average price charged for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was \$16.20 per month, unchanged from last year. Cattle producers paid \$18.70 per cow-calf pair in 2006, unchanged from the previous year. The average per head rate was \$18.30 per month, up \$1.00 from last year.

In the 17 states that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was \$13.80 per month in 2006, up \$0.60 from the previous year. The cow-calf rate was \$15.80 per month, up \$0.60 and the per head rate, at \$14.40 per month, was up \$0.40 from 2005.

All grazing fees are for privately-owned, non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

January 1, 2007 Sheep and Goat Inventory

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory was 290,000 head on January 1, 2007, down 2 percent from last year.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers dropped 2 percent from 2006 to 265,000 head. Ewes one year and older were up slightly to 209,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 7,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 49,000 head, decreased 6,000 head from a year ago. The 2006 lamb crop was 270,000 head, a decrease of 2 percent from the 2005 lamb crop.

All market sheep and lambs on hand January 1, 2007 totaled 25,000 head,

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unchanged from 2006. Of that total, 6,000 head were sheep and 19,000 head were lambs. The market lambs by weight category are as follows: 5 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 37 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 42 percent were in the 85-105 pound category, and 16 percent were over 105 pounds.

Montana wool growers produced 2.4 million pounds of wool during 2006, down 6 percent from 2005. The 2006 average price per pound of wool decreased \$0.07 to \$0.91 per pound. The total value of all wool produced in 2006 decreased 12 percent to \$2.1 million. The total number of head shorn was down 2 percent from 2005 to 255,000 head. The average fleece weight decreased from 9.6 pounds in 2005 to 9.2 pounds in 2006.

Montana's milk goat inventory in 2007 decreased 19 percent from last year to 2,200 head, while meat and other goat inventory increased 20 percent to total 12,000 head on January 1, 2007. All other categories were not published but were combined with the total U.S. numbers.

For the United States, all sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2007, totaled 6.19 million head, down 1 percent from 2006, but still 1 percent above 2005. After two consecutive year to year increases inventory growth was hampered by extremely dry weather in the Southwestern part of the United States. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.62 million head on January 1, 2007, down slightly from 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.71 million head, were 1 percent above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2007, totaled 1.57 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2006. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 25 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2006 U.S. lamb crop of 4.09 million head was down 1 percent from 2005. The 2006 lambing rate was 112 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2006, down 3 percent from 2005.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2006 was 36.0 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2005. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.85 million head, down 4 percent from 2005. The average price paid for wool sold in 2006 was \$0.68 per pound for a total value of 24.4 million dollars, down 7 percent from 26.3 million dollars in 2005. (Continued on next page)

January 1, 2007 Sheep and Goat Inventory (continued from page one)

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2007, totaled 2.93 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.44 million head up 3 percent from 2006. All market goats and kids totaled 494,000

head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2007 meat and all other goats totaled 2.40 million head, up 5 percent from 2006. Milk goat inventory increased 2 percent to 296,000 head while angora goats were down 8 percent totaling 238,000 head. The 2006 kid crop totaled 1.92 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2005.

Mohair production in the United States during 2006 was 1.35 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 216,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.30 pounds. Mohair price was \$3.68 per pound with a value of 4.98 million dollars.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 2005-2007

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06
	1,000 Head				1,000 Head			
All Cattle and Calves	2,350	2,400	2,400	100%	95,438	96,702	97,003	100%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,450	1,450	1,400	97%	41,920	42,056	42,023	100%
Beef Cows	1,432	1,431	1,382	97%	32,915	32,994	32,894	100%
Milk Cows	18	19	18	95%	9,005	9,063	9,129	101%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	555	610	630	103%	19,572	19,984	20,086	101%
For beef cow replacement	400	445	440	99%	5,691	5,904	5,877	100%
For milk cow replacement	9	8	10	125%	4,118	4,275	4,310	101%
Other heifers	146	157	180	115%	9,763	9,805	9,899	101%
Steers 500 pounds and over	205	180	240	133%	16,476	16,933	17,222	102%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	90	110	90	82%	2,219	2,263	2,215	98%
Calves less than 500 pounds	50	50	40	80%	15,250	15,465	15,456	100%
Cattle on Feed	60	55	55	100%	13,745	14,132	14,269	101%

Calf Crop, 2004-2006

	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05
Calves born during year (1,000 Hd)	1,520	1,470	1,450	99%	37,505	37,575	37,567	100%

Sheep, Lambs and Goats Inventory January 1, 2005-2007

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	305	295	290	98%	6,135	6,230	6,185	99%
Breeding sheep	280	270	265	98%	4,533	4,640	4,620	100%
One year old & older								
Ewes	215	208	209	100%	3,573	3,661	3,706	101%
Rams	7	7	7	100%	190	196	195	99%
Replacement Lambs	58	55	49	89%	771	783	719	92%
Market Sheep & Lambs	25	25	25	100%	1,602	1,590	1,565	98%
Sheep	3	6	6	100%	74	76	89	117%
Lambs	22	19	19	100%	1,528	1,514	1,476	97%
Milk goats	3.0	2.7	2.2	81%	285	290	296	102%
Meat and other goats	8.3	10.0	12.0	120%	2,150	2,287	2,400	105%

Lamb Crop, 2004-2006

Item	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	270	275	270	98%	4,096	4,117	4,085	99%

Sheep and Lambs Shorn and Wool Production and Value

Item	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05	2004	2005	2006	'06/'05
Number Shorn (1,000 Hd)	267	260	255	98%	5,073	5,072	4,852	96%
Average Pounds per Fleece	9.3	9.6	9.2	96%	7.4	7.3	7.4	101%
Wool Produced (1,000 Lbs)	2,472	2,490	2,350	94%	37,622	37,232	36,019	97%
Wool: Dollars Per Pound	1.17	0.98	0.91	93%	0.80	0.71	0.68	96%
Total Value (1,000 Dollars)	2,892	2,440	2,139	88%	29,921	26,272	24,414	93%

Ag Prices Received for December

December full month crop prices were mostly higher when compared with November 2006. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$4.48 per bushel, down \$0.05 from the previous month; spring wheat rose \$0.01 to \$4.56 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased \$0.25 to \$4.87 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up \$0.49 from the previous month to \$2.83, but malt barley prices decreased \$0.01 to \$3.10 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was \$3.00 above December at \$79.00 per ton but all other hay dropped \$6.00 to \$74.00 per ton. Mid-January grain prices were mixed when compared with the previous month. Winter wheat price was \$4.33 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.42 per bushel, durum wheat was \$4.96 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.95 per bushel, and malt barley was \$3.40 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mostly lower when compared with November 2006. Steer and heifer prices decreased \$6.80 to \$102.20 per cwt and cows were down

\$2.00 to \$39.80. The price for calves dropped \$7.00 to \$118.00 per cwt. Sheep prices were up \$4.90 to \$31.00 per cwt and lamb prices were up \$5.00 to \$106.00 per cwt. The all milk price decreased \$0.20 per cwt from last month to \$13.90 per cwt. Mid-January prices for steers and heifers were \$96.80 per cwt, cows were \$43.60 per cwt, calves were \$118.00 per cwt, and milk prices were \$14.90 per cwt.

U.S. prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was \$4.51 per bushel, down \$0.17, spring wheat was \$4.48 per bushel, unchanged, durum wheat was \$4.74 per bushel, up \$0.11, all barley was \$2.95 per bushel, up \$0.03, steer and heifers were \$89.30 per cwt, down \$0.90, cows were \$42.20 per cwt, down \$1.20, calves were \$115.00 per cwt, down \$3.00, sheep were \$35.30 per cwt, up \$4.40, lambs were \$93.20 per cwt, down \$1.80 and all milk was \$14.10 per cwt, up \$0.20 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was \$4.47 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.52 per bushel, durum wheat was

\$4.69 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.21 per bushel, and feed barley was \$2.93 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January were \$90.30 per cwt, cow prices were \$43.80, calves were \$115.00 per cwt, all milk was \$14.40 per cwt, all hogs were \$41.40 per cwt, and all eggs were \$0.915 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 124 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.5 percent) from December. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.1 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, oranges, broilers, and eggs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, calves, and grapefruit. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of broilers, cotton, soybeans, and rice offset decreased marketings of oranges, tobacco, eggs, and cattle.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)			Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Dec 2006	Jan 2007
Prices Received			117	113	121	124
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/			144	148	150	152
Ratio 2/			81	76	81	82

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec 2005	Nov 2006	Dec 2006	Dec 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2005	Jan 15, 2007	
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	3.59	4.53	4.48	4.51	-0.05	+0.89	4.33	4.47
Durum Wheat	Bu	3.47	4.62	4.87	4.74	+0.25	+1.40	4.96	4.69
Spring Wheat	Bu	3.76	4.55	4.56	4.48	+0.01	+0.80	4.42	4.52
All Wheat	Bu	3.65	4.55	4.54	4.51	-0.01	+0.89	4.41	4.50
Barley, All	Bu	2.85	2.90	3.04	2.95	+0.14	+0.19	3.31	3.13
Feed Barley	Bu	1.67	2.34	2.83	2.79	+0.49	+1.16	2.95	2.93
Malt Barley	Bu	3.04	3.11	3.10	3.02	-0.01	+0.06	3.40	3.21
Oats	Bu	NA	1.96	1.93	1.97	-0.03	NA	NA	2.12
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	69.00	80.00	76.00	112.00	-4.00	+7.00	79.00	115.00
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	86.00	80.00	99.30	-6.00	+17.00	74.00	102.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	68.00	81.00	77.00	108.00	-4.00	+9.00	79.00	112.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	120.00	109.00	102.20	89.30	-6.80	-17.80	96.80	90.30
Cows	Cwt	49.20	41.80	39.80	42.20	-2.00	-9.40	43.60	43.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	107.00	92.90	88.50	83.60	-4.40	-18.50	88.30	85.00
Calves	Cwt	147.00	125.00	118.00	115.00	-7.00	-29.00	118.00	115.00
Sheep	Cwt	45.70	26.10	31.00	35.30	+4.90	-14.70	NA	NA
Lambs	Cwt	124.00	101.00	106.00	93.20	+5.00	-18.00	NA	NA
All Milk	Cwt	15.50	14.10	13.90	14.10	-0.20	-1.60	14.90	14.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. NA-not available.

Farm Numbers and Land in Farms

The number of farms in Montana during 2006 was 28,100, up 100 from the previous year. Farms are sub-grouped by economic sales. The smallest economic sales category, \$1,000 to \$9,999, contains the largest number of farms at 11,300, down 600 farms from 2005. The next economic sales category, \$10,000 to \$99,999, had 10,800 farms in 2006 compared with 10,300 in 2005. For the economic sales category of \$100,000 to \$249,999, there were 3,800 farms, compared with 3,700 the previous year. The economic sales category of \$250,000 to \$499,999 shows 1,500 farms in 2006 compared with 1,400 last year. The number of farms in the highest economic sales class of \$500,000 or more was 700 unchanged from 2005.

Land in farms is estimated at 60.1 million acres, unchanged from 2005. Montana's average farm size is 2,139 acres. Land in farms was also broken down by economic sales class. The breakdowns by sales category and percent change from the previous year are as follows: \$1,000 to \$9,999, 3.9 million acres, down 7 percent from last year; \$10,000 to \$99,999, 17.5 million acres, up 1 percent from 2005; \$100,000 to \$249,999, 18.0 million acres, up 1 percent from a year ago; \$250,000 to \$499,999, 11.8 million, up 2 percent from 2005; and \$500,000 or more, 8.9 million, down 1 percent from last year.

The number of farms in the United States in 2006 is estimated at 2.09 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2005. Total land in farms, at 932.4 million acres, decreased 780,000 acres, or 0.08 percent, from 2005. The average farm size was 446 acres during 2006, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Farm numbers declined in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 and the \$100,000 - \$249,999 sales classes. Farm numbers rose slightly in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 and the two largest sales classes. The decline in the smallest sales class is most likely due to normal attrition, such as retirements, and rising incomes. The changes within the other sales classes were a result of operations moving to larger sales classes by consolidation and expansion. Because of rising incomes, many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2005 moved into the next higher sales class in 2006 without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations.

The largest percentage changes from 2005 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.1 percent, to 1.15 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 2.4 percent, to 81,350 farms, in the \$500,000 & over sales class. The number of farms with less than \$100,000 in sales fell 0.6 percent from 2005 and the number of farms with \$100,000 or more in sales rose 0.7 percent.

Land in farms also shifted from lower sales classes to higher sales classes. In the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 3.0 percent, to 114.7 million acres, while land operated by farms in the largest sales class, \$500,000 & over in sales, increased 1.7 percent, to 213.4 million acres.

Over all, the average farm size increased 1 acre in 2006. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

2006 Number of Livestock Operations

The number of cattle operations in Montana during 2006 was 12,200, down 400 operations from last year. The number of beef cow operations decreased by 400 from 2005 to 11,000. Milk cow operations decreased from 650 to 600 in 2006. Operations that have one or more head of cattle, beef, or milk cows are included in the number of operations.

Only cattle and beef cow operations are published by size group for Montana. The largest number of cattle operations by size group is the 1-49 head category with 5,000 operations, accounting for 3.8 percent of total inventory. The second largest number of cattle operations by size group is 100-499 head with 4,100 operations, 38.0 percent of the total inventory. There are 1,840 operations having 50-99 head, 5.2 percent of the total inventory. The two remaining size groups, 500-999 head with 900 operations and 1,000+ head with 360 operations, represent 25.0 and 28.0 percent of the inventory, respectively.

The largest number of beef cow operations in Montana by size group is the 1-49 head category with 4,900 operations. The 1-49 size group accounts for 6.0 percent of the beef cow inventory. The second largest number of beef cow operations by size group is 100-499 head with 3,900 operations, 56.0 percent of the beef cow inventory. There are 1,700 operations having 50-99 head, 8.0 percent of the total inventory. The

remaining size group is 500+ head with 500 operations, representing 30.0 percent of the total inventory.

There were 500 operations with hogs in Montana during 2006, unchanged from 2005. The number of sheep operations dropped by 100 from last year to 1,600 operations.

In the United States, the number of operations with cattle totaled 971,400 during 2006, down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Beef cow operations in 2006 were down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Milk cow operations were 4 percent below last year and 8 percent below two years ago.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 65,540 during 2006, down 3 percent from 2005 and 6 percent from 2004. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 80 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 69,090 during 2006, up 1 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 90.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.6 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.6 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 28.7 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 24.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.3 percent of the inventory.

December Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.78 billion during December 2006, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.68 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2006 averaged 348 million, down slightly from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 eggs, down slightly from December 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2007 totaled 348 million, down slightly from last year. The 348 million layers consisted of 290 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2007, averaged 71.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Alfalfa Seed Production
Wheat County Estimates
Barley County Estimates
Crop Values

Potato Stocks
US & Canadian Cattle
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production

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